

4. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive is epoxy-based.

5. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the cover plate is different from that of the substrate.

6. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1, wherein a placement face for placing a cover portion of optical fiber is provided at the rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step is provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face, thereby placing and housing the optical fiber.

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment in which the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 1-6 are pending herein. Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

Attached hereto, pursuant to Rule 121, is a marked up version of the changes made to page 7, between lines 9 and 10, and to claims 3 through 6 of the present application.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

March 28, 2001
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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Page 7, between lines 9 and 10, please add the following paragraph:

The file of this patent contains at least one drawing or photograph executed in color. Copies of this patent with color drawing(s) or photograph(s) will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment the of necessary fee.

Changes made to claims 3-6 are as follows:

3. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the distance Y between the substrate and the cover plate is $L / 4 \leq Y \leq L$.

4. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the adhesive is epoxy-based.

5. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the width of the cover plate is different from that of the substrate.

6. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a placement face for placing a cover portion of optical fiber is provided at the rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step is provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face, thereby placing and housing the optical fiber.